



## Locatable Minerals



# Molybdenum

**Molybdenum** – In 2007, Colorado was the leading state for molybdenum production. Molybdenum has a variety of uses in today's energy economy. When used as an alloy, molybdenum provides hardness and durability to steel (at very high temperatures) and imparts corrosion resistance, especially to salt. The physical and chemical properties of molybdenum – softness, ductility, very high melting point, and corrosion resistance – make it impossible to replace. Several uses for molybdenum include: construction of materials used in the oil and gas industry, the medical industry, as a catalyst in petroleum refining, a strengthener in steel, as scrubbers that remove sulfur from stack emissions of coal-fired power plants, and in reactor vessels to cool the tubes in nuclear power plants and desalination facilities. Additionally, molybdenum is used in electrodes of glass furnaces, in rocket engine components, liquid metal heat exchangers, superstructure of large buildings, and as a heat-resistant lubricant for machining. Molybdenum is currently being produced in Lake and Summit counties.



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